

field and facility sanitation, and transportation.

On February 24, 1998, USDA and FDA issued a progress report to the President on the Initiative to Ensure the Safety of Imported and Domestic Fruits and Vegetables. The report summarized the progress USDA and FDA have made in providing good agricultural practices and good manufacturing practices guidance to domestic and international growers, harvesters, handlers, and transporters of fresh fruits and vegetables. The report discussed, among other things, the agencies' plans for assisting domestic and foreign producers to improve those practices.

The report stated that education and outreach programs are essential to foster appropriate application of the guidance by the domestic and international fresh fruit and vegetable industry, and that such programs are pivotal to industry's understanding of the essential principles of the guidance, as well as the scientific and practical reasons for application of the guidance as everyday production and processing practice.

The FDA workshop will begin the process for determining how to develop an education and outreach program for growers and producers of fresh fruit and vegetables imported into the United States. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss the most effective approaches for education and training and to identify any science-based needs that will further the implementation of the guide. At the meeting, foreign and domestic scientific experts, extension professionals, and industry representatives will make presentations on the applications of the guide. Representatives from donor organizations (e.g., the InterAmerican Development Bank) will also address infrastructure improvements needed to enhance food safety. Although the meeting will not offer training, per se, participants will have the opportunity to share current educational information and industry strategies that can further enhance the microbiological safety of fresh fruits and vegetables and contribute to the development of an educational framework for users of the guide.

Dated: March 17, 1999.

**William K. Hubbard,**

*Acting Deputy Commissioner for Policy.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Health Care Financing Administration

[HCFA-0282]

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Health Care Financing Administration, HHS.

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), Department of Health and Human Services, is publishing the following summary of proposed collections for public comment. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following subjects: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

*Type of Information Collection Request:* Extension of a currently approved collection; *Title of Information Collection:* Blood Bank Inspection Checklist and Report and Supporting Regulations in 42 CFR 493.1269-493.1285; *Form No.:* HCFA-0282 (OMB# 0938-0170); *Use:* The Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) of 1988 requires the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to establish certification requirements for any laboratory that performs tests on human specimens, and to certify through the issuance of a certificate that those laboratories meet the requirements established by HHS. The law provides for inspections on an announced or unannounced basis during regular hours of operation. All records and information having a bearing on whether the laboratory is being operated in accordance with the law can be requested by the surveyor. The HCFA-0282 is the Blood Bank Inspection Checklist and Report which is outlined in the CLIA of 1988.; *Frequency:* Biennially; *Affected Public:* Not-for-profit institutions, Business or other for-profit, Federal Government, and State, Local, and Tribal Government; *Number of Respondents:*

1,250; *Total Annual Responses:* 1,250; *Total Annual Hours:* 625.

To obtain copies of the supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, access HCFA's Web Site address at <http://www.hcfa.gov/regs/prdact95.htm>, or E-mail your request, including your address, phone number, OMB number, and HCFA document identifier, to [Paperwork@hcfa.gov](mailto:Paperwork@hcfa.gov), or call the Reports Clearance Office on (410) 786-1326. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collections must be mailed within 60 days of this notice directly to the HCFA Paperwork Clearance Officer designated at the following address: HCFA, Office of Information Services, Security and Standards Group, Division of HCFA Enterprise Standards Attention: Louis Blank, Room N2-14-26, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

Dated: March 15, 1999.

**John P. Burke III,**

*HCFA Reports Clearance Officer, HCFA Office of Information Services, Security and Standards Group, Division of HCFA Enterprise Standards.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Health Care Financing Administration

[HCFA-0319, 2786, and R-0074]

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Health Care Financing Administration, HHS.

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), Department of Health and Human Services, is publishing the following summary of proposed collections for public comment. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following subjects: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to